

APRIL 1957

DD



Vol. VII. No. 5

Price 6d.

**TABLE
TENNIS
DIGEST**

Official Magazine

OF THE

LIVERPOOL & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

All correspondence must be addressed to The Editor, "Table Tenn's Digest", 9 Podium Road, L'pool 13

Published on the third Thursday of each month from Nov. to April.

Season subscription **3s.9d.** post free

EDITORIAL BOARD :

Joint Editors: **J. D. Pattison and J. D. Loughrey**
W. Stamp A. Montgomery J. H. C. Hughes

Vol. VII

April, 1957

No. 5

COMMENT

AT the recent special general meeting of the League, some sign was evident of a degree of rivalry between the big clubs and those with but a single team in the competition, particularly when the question was raised of the alleged unfair advantage held by those clubs holding considerable voting power because of the number of teams they had in the League.

In a flourishing and enthusiastic organisation, the argument might well be very strong, but it is difficult not to reach the conclusion that the small clubs have very largely forfeited any sympathy by the dreadful lack of interest shown. Here was the Management Committee putting forward a scheme, which most certainly had an eye on the single-team clubs, but, in fact there were twenty clubs not represented at the meeting and of these, fourteen run just one side.

The result has been that so far from a complete division of the League into two groups, the next A.G.M. will see a proposal for a return to the old system of five years ago, this time with additional safeguards against abuses which have been so prevalent in recent years, and it is very possible the motion will be carried.

We have seen many complaints on the score of apathy, but the events of this particular evening surely indicates where a great deal of the responsibility lies, and the big clubs, so often criticised, can, with justice, claim that they are responsible for the great majority of the enthusiasm and interest which still exists.

It has been shown many times in the past, that whatever may be done it is always possible to bend the rules to one's own ends, and the basic concept inherent in the Management's defeated suggestions nevertheless remains vitally important—the urgent need for a new outlook on obeying the rules in their spirit, and forgetting, for a change, their literal application.

If only that were done then there might be hope for a bright new era in the League's history. The proposed changes certainly will give a much bigger opportunity for a return to higher standards of play, and with a new outlook by players, this special meeting may yet be a landmark in the League's history, if the alterations are passed at the A.G.M.

From the Secretary's Desk

A.G.M. will be asked to approve Reversion Plan



by
W. STAMP

A SPECIAL general meeting was held on April 9 at the Deaf Institute to consider proposal of the Management regarding re-organisation as outlined in the circular sent to clubs on March 29.

The Chairman and I pointed out that as some of the present rules were being deliberately evaded, certain deletions should take place, putting clubs on their honour to do the right thing for which rules should not be necessary, because we cannot legislate against gamesmanship.

Mr. J. Coveney (Liverpool Y.M.C.A.) suggested we should have one Premier Division of 12 teams playing 3-a-side, followed by the League which could have a First Division in three sections, A, B and C, and the other divisions all playing 5-a-side as at present

Mr. E. Caird (Rafters) suggested we return to the position of three years ago, which meant doing away with the bottleneck of Division 5, but that teams must be played in order of playing strength and that reserves must be drawn from a **lower** team in a **lower** division. This was supported by Mr. R. Hetherington on behalf of Balfour.

Mr. Larkin (Linacre) suggested the Management scheme be adopted but the League be enlarged to include all first and A teams, with the remainder in the Combination, which would mean 72 teams in the League and 36 in the Combination. A vote was taken to give the Management guidance and it will

be seen that Rafters' and Linacre's schemes were fairly even. The voting strength was 108, and I regret to state that 20 clubs were not represented at the meeting, 14 of which were one-team clubs.

	For	Agst
League scheme	18	64
Y.M.C.A.	6	72
Rafters/Balfour	54	42
Linacre	40	45

It was suggested that rules be submitted to the A.G.M. for regrouping on October 31 and December 31, and that players can only play a maximum of 26 matches in a season; also that the Management appoint a standing committee each season to examine the regroupings submitted by clubs and to report to the committee whether they be accepted. This was carried by 73 votes to 13.

Amendments will be put forward to implement the decisions arrived at by the meeting, which your club will receive on May 23, but this does not preclude any club sending in their own amendments to any rule they seek to amend, but such amendments must be in my hands on or before May 1.

The solution to last month's competition appears on another page. The winners were Mr. B. A. Leeson (Fairlawn) and Mr. W. S. Bent (Bath Street). The prizes for this month's puzzle will again be a box of Dunlop-Barna 3 crown balls to the first two correct solutions opened. The result will be announced and the prizes presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Error Cost Balfour Cup

(By J. H. C. Hughes)

ONCE more the Readman Cup final has been won on games, Rafter's obtaining their revenge over the holders, Balfour, by 12 games to 11 after drawing on sets.

In so close a struggle one tries to find the deciding factors, and in my view there were three—Jack McCaig's fine play; Les Davies' error; and Ted Rumjahn's bat.

McCaig, in winning both his events in straight games against Gaulton and Wong, certainly played a captain's part. He used every inch of the table and his angled forehand drives were beautifully placed. He showed fine temperament and against both opponents quickly seized the initiative and never let it go.

At an important stage of the second game against Wong, he surprised Wong, and maybe himself, by hitting three good backhand flicks, but when he lost the next couple of points trying to repeat the shot, wisely realised he had used up his ration and returned to his sounder forehand. The seeds of doubt, however, had been sown in Wong's mind as to where the next attack was coming from, and McCaig's task was made that much easier.

With Balfour leading 4-2 in sets and 8-6 in games, McCaig put Peter Rumjahn on against Gaulton, and Peter responded with a 2-0 win, so that with three sets to go Balfour led 4-3 in sets and games 8-all.

It was at this point that I think the Balfour captain erred. It was his choice and I feel he should have put himself on against Ferguson and gone all out for a 5-3 sets and 10-8 games lead. This would have halted Rafter's recovery and put them very much on the collar.

Instead he put Wong on with McCaig and the Rafter's captain took full advantage of the let-off to put his side level on sets and two games ahead. This left them

only wanting a 2-1 win in either of the two remaining sets to obtain victory.

The pressure had been transferred and McCaig underlined Davies' error by still keeping the Balfour captain off the table and putting Ron Rumjahn on with Reg Hetherington. With Ron winning 2-1, Davies found himself playing the last set of the night with the match result already decided.

Now to Ted Rumjahn's bat. Ted himself used it to beat Hetherington two-straight, and though it could make little impression against some inspired forehand hitting by Norman Jones, it still had an important part to play.

Brother Ron, finding himself a game down against Davies, decided to use it and though beaten 2-1, did manage to get the second game. And it was Ted's bat in Ron's hand that got Rafter's the two games they wanted when Ron beat Reg 15-21, 21-17, 21-17 in what was perhaps the best game of the night, Ron pulling out that little extra when it was most needed.

It will thus be seen that Ted's bat was concerned in nearly 50 per cent of the games Rafter's won.

Davies and Jones won both their sets for Balfour, Jones having a real hurry and scurry game against Peter Rumjahn, each point taking only an average of seven seconds, including time for shoe-mopping, table-replacing and the dignified entrance and exit of a lady of the W.V.S.

All credit to Rafter's for a great fight back, but I can't help feeling that Balfour let the cup slip from their grasp. Perhaps Thomas Jefferson had such a position in mind when he wrote:

"On the plains of hesitation
"Beach the bones of countless
 thousands,
"Who, on eve of victory rested,
"And resting, died".

Doubles Were Vital Factor

CONGRATULATIONS to Bohemians in winning the Bartholomew Cup by defeating Balfour 6-4 in the final. It was a close and exciting match and it was unfortunate that so few members of the women's divisions were present to see the struggle.

Moya Jones (Bohs) and Joyce Randall (Balfour) were in excellent form and gave a sparkling display. Moya won both of her events, beating Joyce after a tense match, 20-22, 21-16, 21-17. If Joyce had not wasted some of her serves, the result might have been reversed.

Against Clive Dickenson, Moya had an easier passage. Clive played her usual lively game, only just failing to take the first game, the final score being 21-23, 15-21.

Joyce Randall had her revenge against Muriel Willcox, whom she beat in straight games. If Joyce can maintain this form I am sure it will not be long before she is wearing City colours.

At the interval Balfour were leading 3-2, which should have put them in a winning position, but Joyce Jones had an attack of nerves and lost in straight sets to Muriel Willcox and Barbara Tomkinson, both of whom played well.

Julie Roberts won her sets by beating E. Gleed and B. Tomkinson, and greatly amused Mr. Bartholomew, who attended to present his cup, by her leaps and twists as she endeavoured to retrieve the ball.

Boh's experiment of splitting their doubles strength again proved successful, as it had done in the semi-final against Rafter's. Both events went to three but they were the deciding factor in the match.

A Never-in-Doubt Final

(By E. Cameron)

LINNETS A had the luck, experience, better combination and cruised to a never-in-doubt-after-the-first-set 7-3 victory over University in the final of the Rumjahn Cup.

Possibly University have played better—their players had travelled from as far away as Derby—but Linnets had so much respect for them that they played their weakest player at No. 1. Gould, however, promoted from the B team, gave a good account of himself.

Pardy opened the score for Linnets with a comfortable win over Peers. We had glimpses of the promise of Pardy, who has the strokes to get into the top flight and outclassed Peers. Jones (University) showed some nice hitting against Morris and appeared to have the edge, but Morris never faltered and puffed his way to ascendancy.

The classiest player on view was University's nonchalant Ellis. He played the old-fashioned rubber bat game that is so delightful to watch; always appeared to play within himself and won both his sets in straight games.

Said (University) provided the brightest spot of the evening. His red shorts are quite the brightest playing apparel I have seen. The little fellow hit with a ferocity belying his size, but he had two opponents, Wooding and Roach, who knew how to counter-hit and both hammered back harder than they received and the bewildered Said was done.

Dean gave us two hard games and did not enjoy the best of luck, while Roach was as much the master of his opposition as was Ellis. A pity these two did not meet in what was the highest-ever standard for a Rumjahn Cup final.

DIVISIONAL NOTES

FINAL SET SAVED BOOTLE

THE tremendously exciting relegation struggle in the First Division came to its climax in the Bootle Y.M. v Liverpool Y.M. match during the final week. Bootle required one point from the match, but were soon so far in arrears that nothing seemed less likely. The sets started to come, however, and from being 0-4 down, the final set was won to divide the points and save the day for Bootle.

Anfield are the unfortunates who must be relegated on inferior sets average, while Balfour A, just one point ahead, must be glad to retain their status after a most hectic struggle.

There has been no holding Balfour at the head of the table, and though at one time they were struggling with Rafter's, their final margin of eight points brooks no argument.

LEADING AVERAGES

	P.	W.	%
*Taylor (Bath St.)	48	43	89.53
*E. Rumjahn (Raft)	46	40	86.95
Davies (Balf)	56	47	83.92
*Jones (Balf)	48	40	83.33
Wong (Balf)	48	39	81.25
Thomas (Linnets)	48	39	81.25
P. Rumjahn (Raft)	52	41	78.84
*Chesham (Bohs)	48	37	77.08
Hobbs (Linnets)	42	32	76.19
*Pierce (Linnets)	36	26	72.22
Gaulton (Balf)	50	36	72.00
*R. Rumjahn (Raft)	52	37	71.15
*Hand (Bohs)	44	31	70.45
*Mulholland (Bal A)	30	21	70.00
*Harris (Oak)	48	33	68.75
*Hetherington (Balf)	54	37	68.51

(Qualification in all averages 20 sets, league and cup matches included. Asterisk denotes players with 75 per cent of sets at Nos. 1 or 2.)

The steady advance of Linnets to third place has been striking, if not perhaps so surprising when the strength of recent signings is remembered. Frank Thomas' performances this season have certainly been very creditable. He must be one of the most improved players of the season.

Also coming on well in the second half, has been John Cain, of Liverpool Y.M. His 60 per cent average on first acquaintance with the top division is a pretty good performance.

It is to be regretted that Litherland have not been able to

retain their status, though the fact they only came up on the disbanding of the Nomads must not be forgotten. The successful fight to avoid relegation by Bootle is, however, a blow struck by the youth of the section, and they may well have a more comfortable passage next time.

★ ★ ★

AS the smoke of the most interesting promotion fight for a long time in Division 2 dies away, Cadwa emerge as worthy runners-up to Liverpool Y.M. A, beating Bohemians A on sets average.

Des Loughrey, not officially good enough for the side at the beginning of the season, was key man in the Y.M. success, never suffering a double defeat. For Cadwa, Ted Mandeluff shone. He won one of his first four sets, was promoted No. 1 on this slim evidence of his ability, and lost only three more league sets during the season.

	P.	W.	%
*Mandeluff (Cdwa)	42	36	85.71
*Rimmer (Lucem)	42	35	83.33
Salmon (I.C.I.)	42	35	83.33
West (Bohs)	50	39	78.00
Loughrey (Lpl YM)	36	28	77.78
*Ross (Bohs)	22	17	77.27
Lewis (Anfield)	28	21	75.00
*Mason (Panto)	52	38	73.08
Gunnion (Boo YM)	48	35	72.92
*Bintley (Lpl YM)	28	20	71.43
*Jones (I.C.I.)	40	28	70.00
*Park (Vic Pk)	40	27	67.50
Davies (Lucem)	40	27	67.50
*Loveady (Raft)	48	32	66.66
Rycroft (Bohs)	50	33	66.00
*Wright (Lpl YM)	44	29	65.91

If Alan Rycroft had maintained the form which brought him 20 wins in 22 sets, Bohemians A would have won promotion, but he was only half as successful later on.

Victoria Park A did well when they secured Salmon from I.C.I. Following his advent, an unusually settled side was chosen by the High Street club, who utilised 15 players during the season—13 in the first half.

Lucem gained three first half-season points, and then took 14 in the return matches, further proof of the value of a settled side. Anfield got 13 of their 17 points from their last eight matches, with Joe Brierley playing.

SEDDON'S GREAT PROMISE

THE immediate return of Waterloo Dock to the Second Division prompts the thought of how great is the difference between the two divisions. But there can be no argument that the Dock were always likely to finish at the top and are worthy champions. Jack Seddon would shine in any company and once again has a magnificent record, but this time he has received grand support.

The side which has been making a steady advance, largely unnoticed has, however, been Litherland A. and it comes as a surprise to find them only two points behind the champions. Dave Styles, as always, has acted as a bulwark at No. 5, and since Christmas they have proved hard to beat.

	P.	W.	%
*Seddon (Wat Dk)	46	43	93.47
Roach (Linnets A)	50	46	92.00
*Morris (Linn A)	40	35	87.50
Owen (Maghull)	26	20	76.92
Byrne (Wat Dk)	50	37	74.00
*Pardy (Lin A)	56	41	73.21
Birmingham(LthA)	22	16	72.72
Ruane (Lin A)	40	29	72.50
Sille (Wat Dk)	50	36	72.00
Styles (Lith A)	52	37	71.15
*Rawlinson (Mag)	48	34	70.83
Marsden (Lofters)	44	31	70.45
*Lacey (Lin M.C)	46	32	69.56
Hayden (Wat Pk)	50	32	64.00
Dunn (Wat Dk)	50	32	64.00
Glass (A.O.M.)	30	19	63.33

With some outstanding individual records it is at first sight a little hard to understand why Linnets A have ended runners-up. There must be some heartburning in Lark Lane when that 2-8 defeat to Osterley is recalled when the side was two short.

Cadwa A were not able to avoid the bottom placing after all. They have never been able to find a strong opening pair since the departure of Bradshaw. The final five matches were lost, when relegation would have been avoided with just two points from those matches. Osterley's 6-4 victory over English Electric in the last match saved the day for them, but with 4 points from the last two matches, it was a mighty narrow squeak for them.

* * *

CONGRATULATIONS to University, who secured the Fourth Division championship in their first season since rejoining the league. Special mention must go to Ellis, undoubtedly the division's best player, and to Jones, who settled remarkably well after an ordinary start.

Dunlop were worthy runners-up, and if Cashin had been available this year, would probably have done even better, for the reserves were not always in the same class as Mason and company.

	P.	W.	%
*Ellis (Univ)	56	53	94.65
*Oakes (Dunlop)	34	29	85.29
*Killip (Dunlop)	46	39	84.78
Mason (Dunlop)	42	35	83.33
*Robinson (RAFA)	48	37	77.08
*Trewis (Wav)	52	40	76.92
Tarr (Wav)	52	40	76.92
Jones (Univ)	56	43	76.79
*Siddall (Wav)	50	38	76.00
Inge (Wav)	50	36	72.00
Cashin (Dunlop)	28	20	71.43
Williamson (Dun)	38	27	71.05
Reid (Bath St.)	44	31	70.45
Dible (Bath St)	36	25	69.44
Bent (Bath St)	42	29	69.05
Peers (Univ)	52	34	65.38

(Continued on Page 9)

THE SPORTS SPECIALIST

TABLE TENNIS EQUIPMENT A SPECIALITY
Championship Tables, Bats, Balls, Nets, Shoes and Clothing.
All makes of named Bats and Tables supplied.

JACK SHARP

Telephone

ROYAL 4793/4

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS . . .

36-38 Whitechapel : LIVERPOOL 1

FINAL LEAGUE TABLES

for Season 1956/57

Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Balfour	22	17	1	4	160	60	38
Rafters	22	13	5	4	147	73	30
Linnets	22	12	6	4	136	84	28
Bohemians	22	11	6	5	126	94	27
Victoria Park	22	10	9	3	114	106	23
Bath Street	22	8	8	6	104	116	22
Liverpool Y.M.	22	9	10	3	105	115	21
Oakhill	22	8	10	4	97	123	20
Balfour A	22	5	11	6	90	130	16
Bootle Y.M.	22	5	12	5	92	128	15
Anfield	22	6	13	3	82	138	15
Litherland	22	2	15	5	67	153	9

Division 5

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Rafters B	20	18	2	0	158	42	36
Bohemians B	20	15	3	2	134	66	32
L'pool Y.M. B	20	16	4	0	131	69	32
Bootle Y.M. B	20	11	6	3	116	84	25
Victoria Park B	20	10	6	4	108	92	24
Balfour B	20	9	9	2	108	92	20
Fairlawn	20	8	9	3	94	106	19
Anfield B	20	4	10	6	77	123	14
Victoria Park C	20	3	13	4	71	129	10
Wavertree A	20	3	16	1	57	143	7
Oakhill B	20	0	19	1	46	154	1

Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
L'pool Y.M. A	22	16	4	2	144	76	34
Cadwa	22	14	5	3	135	85	31
Bohemians A	22	13	4	5	129	91	31
Rafters A	22	14	8	0	133	87	28
Bootle Y.M. A	22	12	7	3	122	98	27
Panto	22	9	8	5	110	110	23
Victoria Park A	22	8	10	4	108	112	20
Lucern	22	7	12	3	100	120	17
Anfield A	22	7	12	3	96	124	17
I.C.I.	22	5	12	5	93	127	15
Oakhill A	22	5	13	4	79	141	14
L.P.A.S.	22	2	17	3	71	149	7

Division 6

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
G.L.S.C.	22	20	0	2	178	42	42
Harold House	22	19	1	2	178	42	40
Rafters C	22	13	4	5	139	81	31
Litherland B	22	13	6	3	133	87	29
Waterloo Pk A	22	10	9	3	116	104	23
Cadwa B	22	9	10	3	109	111	21
Bootle Y.M. C	22	8	10	4	112	108	20
Balfour C	22	8	11	3	98	122	19
Rankin A	22	7	15	0	53	167	14
Domestic Mis.	22	4	15	3	81	139	11
Anfield C	22	4	17	1	64	156	9
Rankin	22	0	17	5	59	161	5

Division 3

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Waterloo Dock	22	17	2	3	162	58	37
Linnets A	22	18	4	0	162	58	36
Litherland A	22	17	4	1	134	86	35
Linacre	22	11	9	2	115	105	24
Waterloo Park	22	10	9	3	110	110	23
Lofters	22	10	10	2	115	105	22
Maghull	22	10	11	1	111	109	21
Everton Y.M.	22	6	12	4	95	125	16
African Oil	22	7	14	1	77	143	15
Osterley	22	5	14	3	81	139	13
Cadwa A	22	5	15	2	77	143	12
English Electric	22	4	16	2	81	139	10

Women's Division 1

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Bohemians	21	16	1	4	146	64	36
Rafters	21	16	3	2	146	64	34
Balfour	21	14	7	0	129	81	28
Waterloo Park	21	11	8	2	111	99	24
Bibbys	21	5	11	5	84	126	15
Oakhill	21	4	12	5	85	125	13
Cadwa	21	4	13	4	75	135	12
Bath Street	21	2	17	2	64	146	6

Division 4

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
University	22	19	2	1	162	58	39
Dunlop	22	17	2	3	164	56	37
Wavertree C.C.	22	17	3	2	159	61	36
Bath Street A	22	12	7	3	131	89	27
Warbreck	22	13	8	1	119	101	27
Brenka	22	12	10	0	106	114	24
Aighburth	22	9	11	2	105	115	20
R.A.F.A.	22	7	13	2	93	127	16
Beauchair	22	6	13	3	89	131	15
Panto A	22	6	15	1	92	128	13
L.P.A.S. A	22	4	16	2	71	149	10
Technical Studs.	22	0	22	0	29	191	0

Women's Division 2

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Linnets	22	21	0	1	185	35	43
African Oil	22	17	1	4	155	65	38
Domestic Mis.	22	14	5	3	134	86	31
Cadwa A	22	12	8	2	127	93	26
Bibbys A	22	12	9	1	116	104	25
Rafters A	22	11	10	1	113	107	23
Linnets A	22	8	9	5	109	111	21
Bohemians A	22	10	11	1	106	114	21
Waterloo Dock	22	4	14	4	86	134	12
Dunlop	22	4	16	2	74	146	10
Oakhill A	22	2	16	4	62	158	8
Waterloo Park A	22	1	17	4	53	167	6

North Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Litherland C . . .	18	15	3	0	133	47	30
Bath Street B . . .	18	13	3	2	119	61	28
Co-op.	18	10	5	3	98	82	23
Bath Street C . . .	18	10	6	2	92	88	22
Lofters A	18	9	8	1	95	85	19
Brenka A	18	7	8	3	90	90	17
Warbreck A	18	6	10	2	90	90	14
Bootle Nalگو	18	6	10	2	75	105	14
Waterloo Pk B . . .	18	5	13	0	77	103	10
Orrell	18	1	16	1	31	149	3

South Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Linnets B	18	15	0	3	138	42	33
Sefton	18	13	2	3	123	57	29
Stanley House . . .	18	9	5	4	111	69	22
Florence Oxtou . . .	18	8	4	6	108	72	22
Linnets C	18	9	7	2	92	88	20
Aighburth A	18	10	8	0	91	89	20
Dunlop A	18	8	8	2	91	89	18
Wavertree Lab. . . .	18	5	11	2	75	105	12
Bedford	18	2	16	0	43	137	4
St. Michaels	18	0	18	0	28	152	0

Central Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Lucem A	20	18	1	1	157	43	37
L'pool Y.M. C	20	15	4	1	145	55	31
Lussac	20	14	4	2	130	70	30
R.A.F. (Movs)	20	14	5	1	136	64	29
Waterloo Dk A	20	12	4	4	139	71	28
Ebani	20	9	10	1	103	97	19
Panto B	20	6	12	2	88	112	14
L'Pool Y.M. D	20	5	15	0	73	127	10
Aighburth B	20	5	15	0	65	135	10
Tech. Studs. A	20	4	15	1	50	150	9
Tech. Studs. B	20	1	18	1	24	176	3

East Region

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Pts
Bohemians C	22	21	1	0	174	46	42
L.P.A.S. B	22	15	5	2	142	78	32
Bohemians D	22	14	6	2	144	76	30
West Derby	22	14	6	2	131	89	30
Huntley & P	22	13	6	3	138	82	29
Nalگو	22	14	7	1	123	97	29
Cadwa C	22	12	6	4	141	79	28
Artistes	22	7	12	3	108	112	17
Stoneycroft	22	5	15	2	77	143	12
English Elec. A	22	4	18	0	63	157	8
Beauclair A	22	3	18	1	52	168	7
Huntley & P. A	22	0	22	0	27	193	0

(Continued from Page 7)

If Wavertree Community had had Siddall and Inge available at Bath Street, they would probably have gained promotion. Tarr had a wonderful season for them. Bath Street, with Dible finishing the season strongly, just pipped Warbreck for fourth position.

R.A.F.A. began well, taking 14 points from 13 matches, but gained only two more, despite stiffening from recruit Hogg.

CUP FINAL OF SURPRIZES

(By J. McKim)

FLORENCE OXTON won the Hyde Cup when they defeated Linnets B 6-4 at Dunlop, but the match was so close that during the last set we were counting up points, for if the Linnets player had won the score would have been five sets all and 11 games all.

The excitement of the evening was provided by shock results rather than brilliant play, and Florence Oxtou provided the first surprise when they reversed their team order, a move which reduced the interest and standard of play in a number of sets.

Linsner, at No. 1, had two easy victories for Linnets against Reeves and McCarten, and Wignall and Moran, playing at Nos. 3 and 4 for Florence Oxtou won four of their team's six sets by straight games victories over S. and N. Wilkinson, and Walker and Dutch respectively. Wignall's victory over S. Wilkinson deserves further comment, for after trailing 3-10 he pulled up to win the first game 21-16 and despite good defensive play by Wilkinson went on to win a close second game 21-18.

Reeves, playing at No. 1 for Florence Oxtou, upset the appercat by beating S. Wilkinson although some wild hitting, particularly in the third game, nearly cost him the set. Mansfield, normally a No. 1 or 2, lost both sets playing at No. 5. Against N. Wilkinson's steady defence he was very erratic and although he improved in the second game, several wild hits proved fatal against such a steady opponent.

When Walker beat Mansfield to make the score 5-4 in Florence Oxtou's favour, it appeared that a count of games or points would be necessary, but McCarten repeated his semi-final feat by winning the last set, 21-18, 21-23, 21-17, after Dutch had pulled up from 7-13 to 13-all in the third game.

Full marks to the losers for their neat and uniform turn-out, a pleasant change.

DRAPER LED BOHS' ADVANCE

AFTER all the excitement when Rafters appeared to be faltering, the B team recovered in convincing fashion, dropping only two sets in the last three matches and proving themselves conclusively to be best side in the Fifth Division. A. Jones completed the season without suffering a defeat in League matches, and Bill Lamb was difficult to beat from start to finish.

The side with the best second half record, however, was Bohemians B, who avoided defeat in the last nine matches. Indeed Victoria Park B were the only team, in the last match, to take even a point off them.

The fact that S. Draper appeared only in the second half, and won 14 out of 16 sets, points an obvious explanation, but the all-round strength of the side was impressive, and it would have been interesting to see them up against Rafters when they really hit top form in February. This run brought them level with Liverpool Y.M. B on points, and set average gives them second place.

	P.	W.	%
*Jones (Raft B) . . .	36	35	97.22
Lamb (Raft B) . . .	40	35	87.50
*Sind (Lpl Y.M B) . . .	32	26	81.25
Montgomery (RftB) . . .	50	39	78.00
Rosc (V Pk B) . . .	38	29	76.31
Davies (Lpl YM B) . . .	20	15	75.00
Caird (Raft B) . . .	36	26	72.22
Jones (Lpl YM B) . . .	36	26	72.22
*Cairns (B YM B) . . .	42	30	71.42
*Jones (Bohs B) . . .	34	24	70.58
*O'Dwyer (Rft B) . . .	48	33	68.75
Parry (V Pk B) . . .	22	15	68.18
*Cameron (V Pk B) . . .	34	23	67.64
Willcox (Bohs B) . . .	30	20	66.66
Fearn's (Balf B) . . .	32	20	62.50
Royle (Anf B) . . .	24	15	62.50

There was never much hope for Oakhill B at the foot of the table, but there was just a chance that Wavertree A might escape relegation. The partial revival was not maintained, however, and two defeats in the final games spelt disaster. This was a much better side in the second spell, however, and there is a nucleus for better things with just a little more punch in the tail.

Bootle Y.M's feat of the season was taking two points from the champions. This side has remained virtually unchanged throughout the season, and it is interesting to note the consistent results returned, with only Les Cairns outstanding, their

form during the closing months has been second only to Bohs B.

★ ★ ★

THERE can be no argument about the claims of G.L.S.C. and Harold House to promotion. They have shown themselves easily the two strongest sides in the Sixth Division and richly deserve their placing. The success of Harold House may rouse some nostalgia in older members, for this was one of the finest sides in the League in the old days. This new side has great talent.

	P.	W.	%
*Smith (GLSC) . . .	50	44	88.00
*Jacobs (Har H) . . .	48	41	85.41
Schamis (Har H) . . .	40	33	82.50
Faneran (GLSC) . . .	50	39	78.00
*Grant (GLSC) . . .	36	28	77.77
Cohen (Har H) . . .	50	38	76.00
*Isaacson (Har H) . . .	24	18	75.00
*Casselman (Raf C) . . .	42	31	73.80
*McMuller (Raf C) . . .	36	26	72.22
Keating (B YM C) . . .	32	23	71.87
Howgate (GLSC) . . .	44	31	70.45
McMillan (GLSC) . . .	40	28	70.00
Rose (Har H) . . .	48	33	68.75
Hill (Dom M) . . .	22	15	68.18
*McNamee (Lth B) . . .	40	27	67.50
Rumjahn (Raft C) . . .	44	28	63.63

It may not be going too far to suggest that no new club has ever gone through two seasons without defeat and dropping only two points, as have G.L.S.C., with only 79 sets dropped in 42 matches. The side may have some limitations in higher company, but it is clear they have a long way to climb before being among sides of their own strength. The great displays by Smith and Grant must be mentioned. Between them they have dropped only nine sets in the season.

Among the curiosities of the game is the droll fact that Rankin are now due for relegation, while their A team, who resigned some time ago, occupy a comfortable mid-table position, nine points above their seniors, making a mockery of ranking lists. J. Newton, of whom a lot was expected, did not make the advance expected, and it is J. Allman who has been the most consistent player in the Club.

A Hill, of Domestic, must take a big share of the credit in saving his side from relegation. Having far and away the best record in the side, his stiffening in the middle of the order has certainly made all the difference and as a result Domestic's steady drop through the division has been halted.

RAFTERS MISSED CHANCE

THE unexpected defeat suffered by Rafters to Waterloo Park, killed all hopes of the Bentley Road side taking the women's championship. Holding a clear balance on sets over Bohemians, it was only necessary for them to win the last two matches to be sure of the table, but Waterloo's fine performance had dire consequences.

It is, of course, easy to be wise after the event, but it does now seem that Bohs would have been well advised to split the all-powerful doubles pair, Jones and Willcox, much sooner. Both Tompkinson and Gleed are sound doubles pairs, and there was always a pretty good chance that there would be two certain doubles victories each week if Jones and Willcox separated. The move when it was made was entirely successful, and it is impossible to avoid the impression that Bohs might well have made certain of the title much earlier if they had made the switch before the closing matches.

	P.	W.	%
*Willcox (Bohs) . . .	48	46	95.83
*Jones (Bohs)	46	44	95.65
Rumjahn (Raft) . . .	44	35	79.54
Roberts (Balf) . . .	34	27	79.41
*Finnetty (Wat Pk) . .	46	34	73.91
*Dickenson (Balf) . .	44	32	72.72
*Murphy (Raft) . . .	46	33	71.73
Fortune (Wt Pk) . . .	28	20	71.42
*Benson (Raft) . . .	46	30	65.21
Loughrey (Raft) . . .	46	29	63.04
*Claque (Bib)	42	26	61.90
*Brown (Bib)	46	27	58.69
*Olsen (Wat Pk) . . .	44	25	56.81
*Randall (Bal)	48	27	56.25
*Newell (Bath)	46	25	54.34
Tompkinson (Bohs) . .	46	24	52.17

Doubles

Jones & Willcox . . .	17	17	100
Rumjahn & Loughrey .	22	16	72.72
Randall & Dickenson .	21	12	57.14
Murphy & Benson . . .	23	13	56.52
Newell & Ellam	22	12	54.54
Finnetty & Olsen . . .	22	12	54.54

The side which has been coming all one way of late has been Balfour, who recently have had some resounding victories. They showed this revival in the cup final when they made the champions fight hard. One reason has been the big improvement by Joyce Randall, whose record since Christmas has been outstanding, while Olive

Dickenson remains as difficult to beat as ever.

Bath Street's final record is disappointing, and hardly does them justice for they have usually provided very fair opposition. Newell is the strongest player by far, but with a little more support the side could do much better next season.

The same could also be said about Cadwa, who have it in them to cause real shocks. Such performances as holding Bohs to a draw, and an 8-2 victory against Waterloo Park cannot be forgotten entirely, and with a youngish side, they may be a different proposition next season.

★ ★ ★

THERE was only one club in the Women's Second Division which had any real chance of halting Linnets all-conquering progress—African Oil—and sure enough in the return, the Mills were able to take a point after a most exciting tussle. The result did not prevent Linnets capturing the title, but it did prove that these two sides are the pair well worthy of promotion.

If there is to be any filling of First Division vacancies, then Domestic have as good a chance as anyone of making the grade. While well behind the top pair on merit, they were a consistent side and gave firm resistance in their matches with the top couple.

	P.	W.	%
*Lamb (Wat Dk) . . .	40	38	95.00
*McCabe (AOM) . . .	46	43	93.47
O'Donnell (Lin) . . .	42	39	92.85
Wynne (Lin)	48	43	89.58
*Harris (Lin)	46	37	80.43
*McMullen (Raf A) . .	48	36	75.00
*Humphreys (Bib A) . .	28	21	75.00
*Pealing (Lin)	46	33	71.73
*Patterson (Dom) . . .	42	30	71.42
*Baron (Bib A)	40	28	70.00
Howarth (Cad A) . . .	30	21	70.00
*Evans (Raf A)	36	25	69.44
Robinson (Cad A) . . .	42	28	66.66
*Morrison (AOM) . . .	46	30	65.21
Lee (Lin A)	28	18	64.28
*Waddell (Lin A) . . .	36	21	58.33

Doubles

McCabe & Morrison . .	23	22	95.65
Harris & Wynne . . .	21	19	90.47
Pealing & O'Donnell . .	20	17	85.00
Gibney & Barrett . . .	15	12	80.00
Wadell & Lee	13	10	76.92
McMullen & Lawton . .	22	16	72.72

Litherland's Strong Five

Cadwa A, with a particularly fine run to end the season, won their last six matches which sent them rocketing up the table. No one was more successful during this spell than J. Howarth, who won all 12 sets, transforming a modest record into a most creditable final average of 70, while Robinson also did well during this time.

Dunlop might well have finished in one of the bottom places for although they have players capable of putting them in the top half of the table, for some reason they appeared only on the rarest of occasions.

Linnets A have at least two players, Abbott and Waddell, who were capable of extending the best, and Nan Lamb, as expected, who was defeated only twice in the season, collecting 38 of Waterloo Docks total of 48 sets.

* * *

LITHERLAND C, with no real weak link in their team, were worthy champions of the North Region. Horwood and Jones were outstanding for them, while Jane and Plumbley did well for Bath Street B, who would have provided a stronger challenge but for having to concede two walk-over sets to Bootle Nalگو, which may have cost them the match.

Co-op played like a side not wanting promotion. They took 21 points from 12 matches and then only two from the last six. But a bouquet to them for never changing their side.

	P.	W.	%
Johnson (Lith) . . .	26	22	84.31
*Gane (Bath St) . . .	38	30	78.95
Plumbley (Bath B) . . .	40	31	77.50
*Horwood (Lith) . . .	40	30	75.00
*McDermott (Lof) . . .	38	28	73.68
Tudor (Nalگو) . . .	38	28	73.68
*Halsall (Bath) . . .	34	25	73.53
Miller (Brenka) . . .	38	26	68.42
Oakes (Lith) . . .	38	26	68.42
Reynolds (War) . . .	40	27	67.50
Brimble (War) . . .	40	27	67.50
Shaw (Co-op) . . .	38	25	65.79
Cantwell (Bren) . . .	42	27	62.50
Cunningham (Ba B) . . .	36	22	61.11
Guy (Brenka) . . .	36	22	61.11
Shorrocks (Ba C) . . .	36	22	61.11

At Lofters, McDermott had a grand season and Waterfield turned in a much-improved record card since the New Year. Billy Miller did well for Brenka, whose Mrs. Cantwell must be one of the best women players in regional play.

Warbreck Moor had consistent performers in Reynolds and Brimble. With better backing for these two, a much higher place might have been achieved. Bootle Nalگو are a mystery side. They had one win two draws and ten defeats a few weeks ago; then completed the season by winning their remaining matches off the reel. For wooden spoonists Orrell, Williams showed heartening improvement late in the season.

* * *

AFTER all the excitement of a month ago, Linnets B have won the South Region championship by a four-point margin, something that appeared impossible at one stage. One reason for this was the non-fulfillment of a fixture by Sefton against Dunlop A.

Strangely enough Dunlop themselves had to concede a match to Linnets C in rare circumstances. On arrival for the match, it was discovered that although table, balls, lighting were all in good order, there was no net available! Despite all efforts it was found impossible to procure one, and Linnets returned home minus an evening's table tennis, but with the points.

	P.	W.	%
*Linsner (Lin B) . . .	44	41	93.18
*Burge (Sef G) . . .	38	34	89.47
*Lynn (St H) . . .	32	27	84.37
*E. Moran (Fl Ox) . . .	38	32	84.21
Walker (Lin B) . . .	42	33	78.57
Armson (Wv Lb) . . .	20	15	75.00
Douglas (Sef G) . . .	42	31	73.80
Evans (Aig A) . . .	38	28	73.68
*Kettle (Sef G) . . .	38	28	73.68
Cheng (St H) . . .	26	19	73.07
McCarten (Fl Ox) . . .	48	35	72.91
Bickerton (Sef G) . . .	40	28	70.00
Davis (Sef/Bed) . . .	36	25	69.44
Dutch (Lin B) . . .	32	22	68.75
Cawley (Fl Ox) . . .	24	16	66.66
Wilkinson (Lin B) . . .	44	29	65.90

Two in First Three

With Wavertree Labour usually in difficulties in the lower half of the table, despite the efforts of N. Hambleton, it is pleasing to be able to report, the side have avoided re-election fears, one reason being the form of K. Armson on his occasional appearances. If he could appear more often Wavertree might do even better next season.

A newcomer who has done especially well this season, has been A Lynn (Stanley House). Unbeaten for a long time, he subsequently dropped a few sets, but his final record is most praiseworthy.

Since the return of E. Moran, Florence Oxtou have always been a potentially good side, but it was in the Hyde Cup final that they really came into their own. Their showing was a complete revelation. If the side is capable of such form in the future it cannot be long before they start to climb the divisions.

★ ★ ★

BOHEMIANS C were worthy champions of the East Region, as befits a side with six strong regulars (averages ranging from 92 to 66 per cent) and capable reserves.

Police finished second, thanks to remarkable improvement of Hamilton, but surely a berth could be found higher in the league for Alan Heague—if not for some of his colleagues.

Bohemians D were in third place—a satisfactory comment on club strength—with outstanding performances by Stirzaker and chopper Cohen. West Derby showed grand improvement to win nine return matches for a final 30 points, both Hughes and French having markedly better results in the second half of the season.

	P.	W.	%
Troake (Bohs C)	50	46	92.00
Mellor (Nalgo)	32	27	84.38
Crafter (Cadwa)	44	36	81.82
*Boyle (Art)	46	37	80.43
Stirzaker (Bohs D)	38	30	78.95
Jenkinson (Bohs C)	28	22	78.57
Cohen (Bohs D)	44	34	77.27
Tomkinson (Bohs C)	34	26	76.47
*Gaskell (H & P)	44	33	75.00
*Campbell (H & P)	46	34	73.91
*Crawford (Bohs C)	46	34	73.91
Brown (Nalgo)	26	19	73.08
Hamilton (Pol)	36	26	72.22
Hughes (W.D.)	46	33	71.74
*Burgess (Nalgo)	28	20	71.43
Catterson (Pol)	42	30	71.43

Huntley and Palmer, with Gaskell and Campbell always strong, were closely followed by Nalgo, for whom Mellor and Hancox did well. A pity Brown could not finish the season—and equally unfortunate Nalgo found it necessary to concede two walk-overs.

Billy Crafter had a good season for Cadwa; Boyle played well throughout for Artistes, and Craven, Hare and Smith all showed improved form in Stoneycroft's side.

We supply:—

BUKTA Table Tennis Shirts in all colours.
 Johnny Leach, Barna, Bergmann etc. T.T. Bats.
 A variety of Sponge Rubber Bats, Tables,
 Nets and Posts *in fact*
EVERYTHING FOR TABLE TENNIS

HENRY WHITTY & SON

LIMITED

15 BASNETT ST., LIVERPOOL 1

Open All Day Saturday

Telephone ROYal 3011

LUSSAC OUSTED BY Y.M.C.A.

THE Central Region title having been decided some time ago, interest has been to see who would capture second place, and although Lussac have held on all through the season, Liverpool Y.M. C came along in the last week to demote the Universitv side. The vital encounter was at Lussac when the Y.M. gained an 8-2 victory which brooked no argument, and they are worthy runners-up.

R.A.F. (Movements) are a varying side, but the names of Hampson and Rix are familiar. The pair provided sufficient strength to keep the side always somewhere near the head of the table. With more support R.A.F. may yet manage to gain promotion in the future as they have never finished far from the top since they joined the League some time ago.

	P.	W.	%
*Hampson (RAF M)	20	19	95.00
Cartwright (Luc A)	24	22	91.66
Tinsley (Luc A)	20	17	85.00
Tyler (Luc A)	44	37	84.09
Beresford (Wt DA)	22	18	81.81
*Rix (RAF M)	36	29	80.55
*Faulkner (Luc A)	44	35	79.54
Seymour (Luc A)	28	22	78.57
Eaton (L YM C)	40	30	75.00
*W.Maddcks(LucA)	36	27	75.00
Kneale (Lussac)	34	25	73.52
Holmes (Lussac)	36	25	69.44
*Barton (L YM C)	26	18	69.23
Trevor (L YM C)	44	30	68.18
Williams (L YM D)	28	19	66.85
Millin (Wat Dk A)	34	22	64.70

The only other side in the section to attract attention has been Waterloo Dock A, who, with an experienced side, have not dropped many points. R. S. Russell is still winning plenty of matches, and he, with Millin and Beresford, have all been successful.

There is a sad falling away after this group and it is idle to pretend that the bottom half of the region is satisfactory. Liverpool Y.M. D have achieved few successes and

have displayed a distressing tendency to be short on too many occasions, giving rise to the thought that it is easier to enter sides sometimes than to turn out a full complement to the end of the season.

Generally speaking this has been a veterans' division, as can be seen at a glance of the final averages, where the names of many old-timers are to be found, most of them with fine records. If the Regions are to be the nurturing ground of talent it must be admitted there has been little sign of it in this Region at least, and one must hope for an injection of youth next season.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE NOTES

The following action was taken against clubs for playing short:—

Y.M.C.A. D (v Lucem A), one short—Fined 5/-.

Anfield D (v Bootle B), one short (5th offence)—Fined 10/-.

G.L.S.C. (v Litherland B) one short (1st offence)—Warning.

Panto B (v Aigburth B), one short—Fined 5/-.

Y.M.C.A. D (v Y.M.C.A. C), one short (3rd offence)—fined 10/-.

Linnets A (v Bibbys), two short—Fined 10/-.

Balfour (v Vic. Park), one short (1st offence)—Warning.

St. Michael's (v Dunlop), one short (1st offence)—Warning.

Nalgo (v Huntley & Palmer), H. & P. walk-over—Nalgo fined 5/-.

Victoria Park A (v Oakhill A) one short (1st offence)—Warning.

Balfour C (v Anfield C), one short—Fined 5/-.

Y.M.C.A. D (v RAF. Movements) one short—Fined 10/-.

Linnets A (v Cadwa), two short—Fined 10/-.

Waterloo Park B (v Bath St. B), one short—Fined 5/-.

Bohemians C (v West Derby), one short—Fined 5/-.

Wavertree C.C. (v Bootle Y.M. B) one short—Fined 10/-.

SIMPLE INFERENTIAL PUZZLE

From the following details you are required to complete the puzzle and also the score card of the match between Pushers and Smashers played sometime during the last couple of years. Each team consisted of two players playing two sets each and combining to play one game of doubles.

The match commenced a little before 8 o'clock. No game went over 21 points. In the puzzle the scores are run together and in the same order as mentioned in the clues e.g. A v B 921 means A scored 9 and B scored 21.

Times should be entered in the puzzle in continental fashion, e.g. 1435.

1 ²	2 ¹	3 ⁵	2		4 ²	5 ²
	5 ²	5		7 ¹	2	1
	2		8 ¹	9	2	1
9 ²	1	19		14	2	
1		19	2	1		19
13 ²	2	5			19	6
		16	3	3		

Across

1. Exact time match ended.
4. Twice score made by Brown in his 2nd game v Black.
6. Square of Brown's score in his 3rd game v Black.
7. Pushers' doubles v Smashers' doubles—1st game.
8. Smith v Brown—1st game.
9. Black v Jones—1st game. Set went 2 games only.
11. Sum of Black's pts. in 2nd and 3rd game v Brown.
12. Black (Pushers' No. 1) v Brown (Smashers' No. 1) —1st game of 3 game set.
14. Square of total points obtained by Jones v Black.
15. Points scored by Brown in his 2nd game v Smith.
16. Three times 5 down. 2nd and 3rd figures in this answer also indicate day and month of year of match.

Down

2. Jones v Smith 1st game.
3. Five times Jones' score in his 2nd game v Smith.
4. All figures in this answer are the same.
5. Exact time match took to play in hours and mins.
7. Exact time the match started.
9. Smashers v Pushers—2nd doubles game.
10. Year in which the match took place.
13. Smith's score in his 3rd game, v Brown, which happens to be a perfect square.

Compiled by D. Cameron

Date MARCH 3, 1956

Match started 7.41 pm

Match ended 9.52 pm

PUSHERS		SMASHERS	GAMES		SETS	
BLACK		BROWN	9/21	21/21	21/5	1
BLACK		JONES	21/1	21/14		1
SMITH		BROWN	19/21	21/16	16/21	1
SMITH		JONES	21/12	21/11		1
BLACK)	BROWN	1/21	21/21		5
SMITH)	JONES				

Name

Address

Club

**SOLUTION
TO
PUZZLE
IN
MARCH
ISSUE**

A	B	Games			Sets
		1	2	3	H/A
1. Hughes	1. Smith	15-21	21-19	21-19	1/0
1. Hughes	2. Green, H.	9-21	14-21		0/1
2. Williams	1. Smith	17-21	12-21		0/1
2. Williams	3. Green, J.	21-17	21-17		1/0
3. Roberts (Capt.)	2. Green, H.	15-21	21-18	21-15	1/0
3. Roberts	4. Jones (Capt.)	21-2	21-4		1/0
4. Gray	3. Green, J.	21-10	21-9		1/0
4. Gray	5. White	21-15	21-19		1/0
5. Miss Brown	4. Jones	2-21	4-21		0/1
5. Miss Brown	5. White	8-21	16-21		0/1

Result:—A won by 6 sets to 4

6/4